

A new species of Chamaecrista sect. Absus

(Caesalpinaceae) from Bahia, Brazil

H. S. Irwin¹⁾ and R. C. Barneby²⁾

¹⁾Clark Garden of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Albertson,
NY 11507

²⁾New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY 10458

Among Brazilian Leguminosae communicated by Dr. G. Hatschbach (MBM) we have come across an undescribed species of Chamaecrista. It should be interpolated into our monographic summaries of the genus at Mem. New York Bot. Gard. 30: 177 (following species no. 76). 1977 and op. cit. 35: 654 (following species no. 78). 1982. Chamaecrista (sect. Absus ser. Rigidulae) rupestrium Irwin & Barneby, sp. nov., habitu notulisque multis Ch. multipenni (I. & B.) I. & B., procul in prov. Minas Gerais centrali obvia affinis, sed stipulis setiformibus 4-9 (nec subulatis 0.4-2) mm longis, foliolis utrinque villosulis (nec glabris), necnon inflorescentia alabastrisque parce villosulis eglandulosis (nec viscoso-setosis) diversa. Notare licet Ch. sincoranam (Harms) I. & B., etiam in rupestribus elatis Bahiae centralis indigenam, a nostra foliis elongatis angustis, foliolis numerosis 12-28 (nec 9-13)-jugis, stipulis abbreviatis caducis racemisque laxis distantius affinem esse. BRAZIL. Bahia: in campo rupestre $\pm$ 1100 m, environs of Rio de Contas (13° 35' S, 41° 50' W), 16.V.1983 (fl), G. Hatschbach 46439. Holotypus, MBM 81734; isotypus, NY.

Erect shrubs 2 m with stiff defoliate trunk and densely leafy hornotinous branchlets terminating in a simple condensed raceme or compact panicle of racemes shortly emergent from foliage, the young stems densely gray-villosulous with fine spreading and $\pm$ entangled eglandular hairs less than 1 mm, the firm plane, richly green subconcolorous leaflets thinly loosely puberulent with shorter incurved villi, the axes of inflorescence subglabrous eglandular.

Stipules erect setiform 4-9 x 0.2-0.3 mm, thinly ciliolate, persistent after fall of associated leaf.

Leaves crowded along the new stems, subhorizontally spreading 2-4 cm, the leaflets inserted 2-3.5 mm apart along slender rachis; leaflets 9-13 pairs, a little decrescent distally, the blades oblong-elliptic from asymmetrically subcordate base 7-11 x 3.5-5.5 mm, at apex obtuse but mucronulate by shortly excurrent midrib, all smooth veinless above, finely keeled dorsally by centric midrib, 3-4 pairs of secondary venules sometimes perceptibly discolored but fully immersed.

Axis of racemes 1.5-3 cm, the pedicels arising 1-2 mm apart, the solitary or 2 simultaneously expanded flowers elevated about to level of succeeding buds; bracts linear-lanceolate 2.5-3.5 mm, membranous-margined, thinly ciliolate; pedicels $\pm$ 2 cm; bracteoles like bracts but a little shorter, inserted 1.5-8 mm below calyx; flower-buds ovoid-acuminate, villosulous at base, glabrate upward; sepals ovate-acuminate 10-11.5 mm; petals (of sect. Absus) bright yellow, the longest $\pm$ 16 mm; filaments glabrous 1.5 mm; anthers $\pm$

3.5 mm, the sutures densely villosulous, the connective exerted 0.2 mm; ovary white-villosulous; style 7 mm glabrous; pod unknown.

In general habit of growth, in foliage, and particularly in attitude of the leaflets, turned obliquely edgewise to the meridian, Ch. rupestrium is strongly suggestive of M. multipennis (I. & B.) I. & B., a species found in similar rupestral habitats on the heights of Sa do Espinhaço in central Minas Gerais, and appears closely related to it. The differential characters already set out in the Latin diagnosis are here recapitulated in key form.

1. Stipules subulate 0.4-2 mm; leaflets glabrous except for rare minute cilia; axes of inflorescence and sepals viscid-setose; crest of Sa do Espinhaço in lat. 19-21° S, centr. Minas Gerais.

Ch. multipennis

1. Stipules linear-setiform 4-9 mm; leaflets villosulous on both faces; axes of inflorescence and sepals thinly villosulous eglandular; w. slope of Chapada Diamantina at lat. 13° 35' S in Bahia.

Ch. rupestrium

We acknowledge with gratitude loan of the holotype of Ch. rupestrium from Museu Botânico Municipal, Curitiba, and the gift from Dr. G. Hatschbach of isotypic material.